

TAFT LEAVES
TARIFF ALONE

Turns Over Problem of Reduction To Wilson and New Congress

WOULD FREE PHILIPPINES

But Not Until They Had Proven Themselves Capable of Self-Government—Not Inclined to Favor Provision Now Before Congress.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 6.—President Taft will make no further effort to have Congress reduce the tariff. In a "general" message to Congress submitted today, the president clearly indicated his intention of leaving further tariff revision to Mr. Wilson and the Congress just elected.

"Now that a new Congress has been elected on a platform of tariff revision, it is to be expected that the president will not occupy the time of Congress with arguments of recommendations in favor of a protective tariff."

This message, the second submitted by the president since the present session began, will be his last of a general character. It dealt with every department of the government except the state department, recommended much of the legislation which Mr. Taft previously had urged upon the attention of Congress, and took up and discussed at length several subjects comparatively new.

Mr. Taft came out strongly against independence for the Philippines proposed, he said, in a bill now before Congress. He deprecated the new policy of one-half a year instead of two; and endorsed again the scheme of currency reform proposed by the national monetary commission.

Conservation was lightly touched, the president recommending the amendment or bills now before Congress so that water power companies which dam navigable rivers will contribute to the improvement of these streams.

He declared that no radical change in the Sherman anti-trust law was needed, and praised the supreme court for its recently announced changes in rules of equity procedure. In this connection the president asked Congress to pass legislation which would allow the supreme court to formulate rules of procedure under the common law in federal courts and predicted that such action would facilitate justice in those courts and reduce the cost of litigation to the public.

The Panama canal was dismissed in a few words, the president prophesying its opening in the latter half of 1913. He took occasion, however, to declare that Congress should reward the work of Colonel Goethals by an appointment as major-general, the provision that he become chief of engineers when the term of the present incumbent expires.

He made only a brief reference to the dispute with Great Britain over the Panama canal act and said that when a formal protest was lodged against that act it would be taken up by the United States.

The army the president discussed at some length. He praised the army legislation of the last Congress but said that provision should be made by law so that the nation's foreign legations may be always maintained upon a war footing; and he urged the passage of the pending military pay bill, designed to make service in the military more enticing, and showed that the home army will be nothing more than a "skeleton" until Congress provides that it be concentrated in fewer posts than are now maintained. He urged also the passage of another bill now before Congress, designed to raise quickly a volunteer army in case of war.

Eventually Free the Philippines.

President Taft did not approve the proposal for immediate autonomy for the Philippines and independence in eight years as proposed in the bill pending in Congress.

"In the Philippine Islands we have embarked upon an experiment unprecedented in dealing with dependent peoples," said President Taft. "We are developing there conditions exclusively for their own welfare. Through the unifying forces of a common education, of commercial and economic development, and of gradual participation in local self-government, we are endeavoring to evolve a homogeneous people fit to determine, when the time arrives, their own destiny. We are seeking to arouse a national spirit and not, as under the older colonial theory, to suppress such a spirit. But our work is far from done. Our duty to the Filipinos is far from discharged."

For educational, sanitary and political reasons, the president said, this country should not consent to grant independence at this time.

"If the task we have undertaken is higher than that assumed by other nations," continued the president, "its accomplishment must demand even more patience. To confer independence upon the Filipinos now is, therefore, to submit the great mass of their people to the dominance of an oligarchy and, probably, exploiting minority. Such a course will be as cruel to those people as it would be shameful to us."

In addition to his advice in regard to legislation and his opposition to pending measures, the president discussed the prosperity of the nation, its financial condition and the proposed system of a national budget showing proposed expenditures and revenues and called attention to the balance in the general fund of the treasury, of almost \$170,000,000. His remarks on the budget system, he said, would be submitted to Congress later accompanied by a model budget.

Weather.

Fair to-night and Saturday; colder Saturday in New Hampshire and Vermont to-night; increasing southerly winds, shifting to westerly and becoming high.

ALCOHOL IS BAD
FOR ANY PROGRESS

It Also Is an Obstacle to the Navy—According to Opinion Expressed by Col. Mervin Maus To-day.

New York, Dec. 6.—The use of alcohol by the army and navy officers is declared the most baffling obstacle to progress is the report of the army. Dr. Maus recommends that no one who uses alcoholic beverages be appointed to important positions, civil or military, to the command of military or naval forces or to any positions of responsibility.

INTERCHANGEABLE MILEAGE SOON

It Is Expected to Become Available After Jan. 1, 1913.

Boston, Dec. 6.—It is understood that after New Year's 1000-mile mileage books of the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad will be good on the Boston & Maine and certain of its subsidiary lines, including the St. Johnsbury & Lake Champlain and Montpelier & Wells River roads.

Boston & Maine 1000-mile mileage books will in return be good on the New Haven and on the central New England lines.

APPOINTED PREMIER
OF JAPAN TO-DAY

Count Tonauchi, Governor-General of Korea, Was Named According to Newspaper Report.

Tokio, Dec. 6.—Lieutenant-General Count Tonauchi, the Japanese governor-general of Korea, today was appointed as premier of Japan, succeeding Marquis Asahi.

CAPTURED TWO MEN.

One of Them from Burlington, Charged with Attempted Bribery.

Manchester, N. H., Dec. 6.—When Edward Burke 49 St. James street, Burlington, Vt., and Frank Mahoney of 154 Front street of Rochester, N. Y., picked out James Vassos of 85 Spruce street in this city as an easy mark upon which to practice their snatching-thieving stunt, they were made aware of their big mistake in less than a minute last night.

As a consequence the two strangers are locked up at the city prison, nursing bad sores, while their intended victim has gone on his way unscathed and still in the possession of all of his belongings.

The way that Vassos got after the two thugs would make a typhoon seem like a gentle June zephyr in comparison.

It appears that Mr. Vassos was on his way to the depot, and when he was midway between Elm and Franklin streets, two men approached him and one of them made a quick grab for his watch. He succeeded in getting hold of the chain, which was broken in the mix-up which followed, and then he made another attempt to get the watch, but as he did so, Mr. Vassos landed a Jack Johnson punch on his chin and down he went for the count. The other fellow rushed to the assistance of his pal, and quick as a flash Mr. Vassos' right again shot out and there lay the two would-be thugs prone on the ground.

FIVE MEN KILLED
IN BOILER EXPLOSION

Accident Took Place in a Sawmill at Wilsandale, W. Va., Last Night, Report of It Being Received To-day.

Huntington, W. Va., Dec. 6.—Five men were killed by an explosion of the boiler in a sawmill near Wilsandale last night, according to a report received here this morning.

LUMBER IMPORTS GROW.

Increase of 50 Per Cent. from Canada Noted at Burlington.

Burlington, Dec. 6.—A 50 per cent. increase in the importations of Canadian lumber at this port by water during the past season was announced yesterday with the closing of the canal of Lake Champlain.

The lumber was brought from Canada by 85 tows of barges. Much of the increase is credited to a shortage of freight cars.

Seven canal boats, unloading when the canal gates closed, will remain here during the winter.

VERMONT BUSINESS TROUBLES.

Fred Goodrich of Hardwick Files in Bankruptcy.

Rutland, Dec. 6.—Fred Goodrich of Hardwick has filed a petition in bankruptcy with Clerk F. S. Platt of the United States court. His liabilities are \$2035.50 and he has assets of \$800, of which \$200 is exempt.

MONTPELIER.

C. I. Hood & Co. Reported to Have Purchased Creamery.

It is understood that C. I. Hood & Co., milk dealers, have closed a deal with C. F. Eddy of Stowe for the purchase of the Montpelier creamery, which he owns, and that the new owners will take possession the first of January.

The Hood company asked a permit from the city council to build a milk station beside the Central Vermont railroad tracks, but this was to make necessary the widening of the road, and since the decision of the council had been known to the company nothing had been heard from it until its new purchase was made known.

The creamery is an up-to-date one and can be used as a receiving station for milk to be shipped to Boston. Butter now sells for 30 cents a pound here and is scarce at that, some dealers having to send to Burlington for their supply.

Miss Ida May Veit, a graduate from the Boston hospital training school for nurses, was married in Richford, Dec. 3, to Roland A. Perry of Melford, Mass. They are to reside at the Windsor hotel, Montreal.

THREE HELD
BY GRAND JURY

Walter V. Dunton, Frank T. Daniels and George M. Fisher

ALLEGED TO BE SWINDLERS

Grand Jury Which Has Been Sitting at Boston, Returned Two Indictments Against Each of the Men To-day—All Are Under Arrest.

Boston, Dec. 6.—Indictments were returned to-day by the grand jury against three alleged book swindlers who have been operating throughout the country. Walter V. Dunton and Frank T. Daniels are under arrest here, and George M. Fisher, known also as George M. Wilson, is in custody in New York. Two indictments were found in each instance, one charging larceny of \$6,300 from Frank C. Carnochan of New York, a Harvard student, and the other alleging a conspiracy to steal money and chattels of Carnochan.

WHITE HOUSE IN DANGER
OF DESTRUCTION

If Fire Should Break Out There Are Not Enough Water Mains and Not Sufficient Pressure.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 6.—The White House is threatened with destruction by a fire, according to disclosures made to-day. The danger is due to the lack of proper precaution. The commissioners of the District of Columbia say they have no authority to lay additional water mains to the White House and that the authorization can come only from Congress. The fire department authorities say that the mains in the grounds are not sufficient, nor the pressure great enough to combat a fire in the historic building should it break out.

RETIRED ARMY MAN
JUMPED TO DEATH

Major John C. Mallory Leaped from Tenth Story of Hotel Manhattan in New York and Was Instantly Killed To-day.

New York, Dec. 6.—Major John C. Mallory, U. S. A., retired, jumped from the tenth floor of the hotel Manhattan to-day and was instantly killed. He had been suffering from melancholia and was under the care of a nurse. His wife also is ill at her home in Newport, R. I. Major Mallory was 69 years old and was graduated from West Point in 1893.

ALL PASSENGERS AND
CREW ARE SAFE

Wireless from the Steamer Easton To-day Said That All Could Be Taken Off When Necessary.

Duluth, Minn., Dec. 6.—A wireless message received this morning by the Associated Press from the operator aboard the steamer Easton, which was ashore near Port Arthur, Ontario, in Lake Superior early yesterday, said that all on board were safe and could reach shore easily if necessary. Alarming reports concerning the fate of the steamer and the safety of the fifteen passengers and crew of 25 have been circulated here. Last night a northeast gale kicked up a tremendous sea and snow fell heavily.

ICE HOCKEY AT GODDARD.

Boys Plan To Have a Good Team This Winter.

Athletic authorities at Goddard seminary will soon build an ice skating rink on the seminary grounds. The rink will again be situated on the tennis courts, but the area of the skating surface will be materially greater. Last winter the artificial pond had dimensions identical with that of the tennis courts, but this winter the width will be extended about fifteen feet, thus giving better facilities to the skaters, whose ability to perform on the ice was hampered by the narrow confines. Present indications will not permit the erection of the rink for some time and the organization of a hockey team will not be attempted before next term.

It is anticipated that the seminary ice players that will uphold the reputation gained last year when the bill lads defeated all competitors in the state. LaCasse, the star man of last year, will return to school at the opening of next term and the few places left vacant by last year's graduation will be snapped up by new comers of repute.

TO HAVE BANQUET.

Bust First the State's Attorneys Will Confer With Attorney General.

The incoming and outgoing state's attorneys of Vermont will confer with the attorney general at the latter's rooms in Montpelier to-night, and following the conference they will adjourn to the Pavilion hotel where a banquet will be served.

Joint Legislative Committee, Attention!

There will be a meeting of the joint legislative committee in the granite cutters' rooms, Scamplin block, Saturday evening at 7 o'clock promptly. Business of great importance to the committee will come up at this meeting and every member is requested to be in attendance.

James F. French, chairman,
Alexander Ironside, secretary.

DIDN'T TRY TO HELP
FERRET OUT MURDER

Instead, Family of C. Augustus Jacobson Insisted It Was Case of Suicide, Declared the Prosecutor.

Houlton, Me., Dec. 6.—County Attorney Perley C. Brown made the state's opening argument in the supreme court of Arrostook county to-day in the case of Rev. Charles Emelius, Mrs. Annie Jacobson and Edgar Jacobson, accused of the murder of C. Augustus Jacobson, father of Edgar and husband of Annie, at New Sweden a year ago.

The prosecutor said that instead of attempting to ferret out the murder after it became apparent that Jacobson had been murdered, the family resented the actions of officers in searching, insisted that suicide was the cause of Jacobson's death and behaved like anything but innocent persons.

He charged that Jacobson and his son quarreled on the day preceding his death, that Emelius had spoken slightly of Jacobson and had tried to borrow money of L. M. and that the widow had complained of her husband's failure to provide for her. Mr. Brown declared that although the evidence against the defendants is circumstantial, it is clear.

FOOTBALL INJURY
CAUSE OF DEATH

Capt. Frank Schaefer of Central High School at Syracuse Got Spiked and Inflammation Set In.

Syracuse, N. Y., Dec. 6.—Frank Schaefer, aged 18 years and captain of the Central high school football team, died to-day as the result of injuries received in a game at Geneva on November 17. Captain Schaefer was spiked in the foot and the wound became inflamed.

BOY RUN OVER BY AUTO.

Peter Lavalley, 11, of Burlington, Had No Bones Broken.

Burlington, Dec. 6.—Peter Lavalley, an 11-year-old boy, was run over early last evening on North avenue between Battery park and North street, by a car belonging to Clarence Morgan and driven by Frank Carey, his chauffeur. The car was proceeding slowly and a number of children had dashed the machine. The Lavalley child ran in front of it, however, and then, becoming frightened, attempted to run back. The chauffeur, thinking that the boy was safely out of the way, did not stop and consequently one of the forward wheels struck him, throwing him down. Carey leaped out of the machine, picked up the boy and carried him to the Mary Fletcher hospital, where the boy was reported as resting comfortably last evening. It is not thought that any bones were broken and no blame is attached to Carey.

CLOSE OF TWO FAIRS.

Presbyterian and Universalist Ladies Very Successful.

Ladies of the First Presbyterian church closed a successful two-nights' fair in the vestry of the church last evening with a continuance of the sale on fancy work, confectionery, ice cream etc., and an excellent program in which several of the young people of the city participated. The program was opened by the Misses Ricketts and Mackay who rendered a pleasing piano solo. Miss Shirriffs contributed a contralto solo and Miss Anna Robertson followed with a soprano solo. Albert Scott creditably rendered a violin solo and George F. Mackay brought the program to a close with a vocal solo. The attendance easily equalled that of the opening night and every indication was given that the most successful fair ever given by the ladies' aid society. Figures were not at hand last night, although the receipts at the door as well as the revenue derived from the sale of wares at the booths are sufficient to assure the fair promoters that their efforts were well repaid.

A dance last evening closed the unique fair of the ladies of the Universalist church, having the caption of "Festival of Holidays," after a three days' session in the Howland hall. Unprecedented in the line of annual entertainments, that have been conducted by this church, were the receipts that will go into the coffers of the ladies' society. At all times since the hall was opened to the public, the booths were well patronized and on the evening of the closing excellent musical and literary programs were given. Last night many of the booths were sacrificed to allow sufficient room for the dancers, who numbered 150 couples. The dance was under the supervision of Edward Tobin and W. G. Reynolds, Riley's Singing orchestra played.

DEATH TRAILS FAMILY.

Unusual Chain of Misfortunes Come to Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Marcell.

The death of Fred Edward Marcell, aged 10 years, at Montpelier last evening reveals to the public what a series of misfortunes has followed the family of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Marcell, the boy's parents, who reside on Main street.

The boy died at 6:30 o'clock, and four hours later his sister, Alice, aged 14, was taken to Heaton hospital for an operation for appendicitis. Four weeks ago another child, a baby was buried by Mr. and Mrs. Marcell. One week ago Sunday Mrs. Marcell's father died, and this morning Mr. Marcell received word that his brother-in-law was just at the point of death, at his home in Quebec. That furnishes an unusual chain of death's visitations for one family. Of their immediate family, Mr. and Mrs. Marcell have nine boys and girls remaining.

The head of this household is employed at the Colton shops and is called an industrial man. His fellow-workers at the shops are thinking of taking up a subscription for Mr. Marcell to tide him over his misfortune, realizing that however hard-working a man might be, he would be hard pressed at a time like this.

SIDETRACKED
TAXATION BILL

The House Refused to Consider Babbitt Exemption Measure

PUT IT OVER TO THURSDAY

Senate Gets Anxious About Final Adjournment and Adopts Resolution Looking to Fixing the Date—Some New Measures In.

State House, Dec. 6.

When Mr. Jose of Johnson to-day called up Senate bill 54, the Babbitt bill providing for an exemption of all money loaned on real estate at not over five per cent., it was evident that the administration intended to put the measure through despite the adverse report from the ways and means committee.

However, opposition made its appearance. Mr. Cummings of Richford thought the House should take up its own measure on this matter before giving the Senate bill consideration. Mr. Proctor of Proctor poured a little oil on what resembled troubled waters. He thought it would be well to consider the House bill first. Mr. Martin of Bennington said he was surprised to see such tactics adopted, and said it was a case of railroad the measure.

Mr. Wright of Westminster wanted the House to debate the bill. Mr. Thomas of Salisbury protested that it was unfair to attempt to put the bill through at this time. Mr. Foote of Cornwall sidetracked further discussion by moving to make it a special order for Thursday, Dec. 12, at 2:15 p. m. It was so voted.

In his prayer in the House this morning, Chaplain Ford urged the lawmakers to take no action calculated to make Sunday any less a day of rest than the present law contemplate.

Mr. Hawley of Burlington introduced a bill to-day providing for licensing pawnbrokers. The measure fixes a license fee of \$15, payable annually, and provides that pawnbrokers must furnish a bond of \$500 and keep an accurate account of all business transacted.

Another conservation measure made its appearance to-day, when Mr. Haggood introduced a bill providing that all timber lands of 100 or more acres, which shall be put under perpetual control of the state so far as cutting of timber is concerned, shall for taxation be set in the list in towns situated at one-half of one per cent of appraised value.

When House bill 98, relating to the exemption of soldiers' homesteads, came up for a third reading, Mr. Jose of Johnson offered an amendment making the amount of exemption \$1,500 instead of \$1,000. Mr. McClellan of Plymouth, author of the bill, accepted the amendment, but his associate, Mr. Haggood of Peru, thought that "we have done enough for the old soldiers." The bill was passed with a rush.

The bill relating to the promulgation of the public acts, which was denied a third reading yesterday, was reconsidered at the morning session to-day and has been recommitted to the committee.

Mr. Haggood introduced another bill, relating to the marking of bullets and Mr. Martin of Bennington put in another to incorporate the Southern Vermont Light & Power company. The House passed its own bill relating to the system of voting, the bill being amended; relating to exemption of soldiers' homesteads from taxation, as amended; to amend the charter of the village of Orleans, as amended.

Senate Thinks About Adjourning.

The Senate is getting nervous about the chances of getting home for Christmas and this morning adopted a joint resolution providing for a committee to investigate the condition of business in the legislature. The resolution is as follows:

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives:

"Section 1. That a special committee consisting of two senators and three representatives, be appointed by the presiding officer of each house, respectively, whose duty it shall be to confer and advise with the chairmen of standing committees of both houses for the purpose of influencing and securing early reports on all bills now in the hands of committees."

"Sec. 2. That the president of the Senate and speaker of the House of Representatives adjourn their respective houses without day, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, next, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon."

Senator Blanchard of Windsor moved that section 2 of the resolution be stricken out. Adopted.

Senator Mower of Chittenden moved to amend the resolution by adding to section 1 "and such special committee shall report to their respective houses during each week until all bills have been reported by a committee." The amendment was agreed to, and the resolution as twice amended was adopted by the part of the Senate.

Bills and Joint Resolutions Approved.

An act to amend section 3 of No. 115 of the acts of 1872, as amended by section 1 of No. 117 of the acts of 1874, relating to Northfield graded school district in Northfield.

An act to amend No. 345 of the acts of 1910, entitled "An act to incorporate the St. Albans & Swanton Traction company."

An act in addition to subsection 21 of section 25 of No. 130 of the acts of 1896, as amended by No. 293 of the acts of 1910, entitled "An act to incorporate a city and a town of St. Albans."

An act to amend section 30 of No. 158 of the acts of 1910, relating to the determination of surplus by savings banks and trust companies.

An act to amend section 5 of No. 207 of the acts of 1894, as amended by No.

206 of the acts of 1888, relating to the North Troy graded school district.

Joint resolution relating to the use of the hall of the House of Representatives.

"NO PROGRESS" REPORT
ON TAXATION BILL

After Three Sessions of Discussion the House Is No Nearer a Conclusion on the Matter.

State House, Dec. 6.

What resembled an attempt to make headway on taxation measures has proven but a flash in the pan as the House, after spending a part of three sessions in committee of the whole, reported "no progress" yesterday afternoon and the speaker declared the committee on the whole dissolved.

To add to the burdens of those foremost in expediting the work of the general assembly it becomes known that the elaborate codification of the fish and game laws, prepared by State Fish and Game Commissioner Titcomb, will be torn into fragments by the joint committee on game and fisheries and a committee bill evolved from the ruins. This means a task of perhaps two weeks and a special clerk will be assigned by the committee on revision to assist in drafting the bill. That there is bound to follow many hours of debates on the bill is a foregone conclusion and this being the case the committee will prefer to have its bill drawn in such shape as to reduce discussion to a minimum.

A feature of the session in the lower branch was a slurring reference made

(Continued on fourth page.)

LURE OF "SHACK" LIFE.

Has Caused Much Trouble and Two Youthful Devotees Are Missing.

To the trials and tribulations of officers at police headquarters has been added an epidemic of "shack" building among youngsters around the city which is said to be responsible for all kinds of mischief and misdemeanor. The lure of shack life has marked tendency to fluctuations in school attendance, but the evil of it does not always end with truancy. For a year or more, the practice of stealing boards and erecting the small structures known to the boy world as "shacks," has been a source of annoyance to police officers as well as lumber owners and others. It is within twelve months that a gang of youngsters were convicted of larceny in city court for purloining lumber at the south end and at that time the authorities believed they had sounded sufficient warning to others contemplating such thefts.

The lesson seems to have misinterpreted, however, and police headquarters is daily besieged with complaints from people who claim that shack tenants sally forth from their rendezvous and commit depredations in certain neighborhoods. The latest violation of the truancy law is the climax to a series of misdemeanors, the officers maintain. Two boys who belong to a shack club near the Marr & Gordon polishing mill at the south-end have not only given the schoolhouse a wide berth but are believed to be leading a kind of bandit life somewhere on the outskirts of the city. A third lad who belonged to the same shack has been taken into custody by the officers and diligent efforts have been made to round up the others. For three days, the missing pair have been away from home and all attempts to apprehend them have been futile. One of the lads' parents went so far as to investigate the shack and things he found there are said to have led him to fire the little structure. It need not be said that severe punishment will be dealt out to the offenders once they are caught.

Just what the status of the "shack" is with relation to the city ordinance is hard to say. The building inspector has ruled that they are buildings within the meaning of the ordinance and he submits that their construction without a building permit issued through the regular channels is a plain violation. In sections where the action of shack tenants has become unbearable, men from the police headquarters have razed the little structures to the ground, although the only effective method of removing the evil is to put the torch to the shacks. This manner of destruction promises to be in order for the shack owners only laugh when they find their houses reduced to a pile of boards and proceed to reconstruction.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Teams Representing Boys and Girls Are Practicing.

Over thirty candidates responded to the call for basketball men; issued this week by Capt. Troup at Spaulding high school, and from now until the holidays Mr. Cummings will be devoting his time to wheeling out the over abundant supply of timber so that a competent quintet may be selected to represent the school in its opening game. The coaching at the school will be greatly handicapped by the lack of experienced players, every player of the team of 1911-1912 being lost either by graduation or by leaving their courses.

Pratt Troup, who figured in a few games last year, was selected captain. Brown, a junior, of football and basketball ability, is out for a position and will probably be successful. Brown was called on last year on different occasions to fill places. Among others that have been connected with basketball at the school in the past and those who are considered promising material are the following: Langley, captain of the football team last fall; Marr, Sowles, Hyde, Martin, Section, Levin, Tomasi, Aile, John Gordon, Philip Gordon, Willey, Lebourveau and Rock.

The date of the first game has not yet been definitely set by Manager Albert Marr. The game will be played with the Northfield high school team in this city, presumably before the Christmas holidays.

Mr. Cummings, who will have the squad under his supervision, is a graduate of Clark college, playing considerably during his course there.

Yesterday afternoon a large number of girls from Spaulding reported for basketball practice at the Church street auditorium. Miss Smith, a member of the faculty of the school, will have charge of the girls' squad. It is understood that a move is under way to organize a basketball league among the various schools in this part of the state.

\$10,000 COVERS
FAIRLEE LOSS

Opera House, Church and Public Library Destroyed

IN AN EARLY FIRE TODAY

Other Structures, Including Hotel and Abbott's Drug Store, Were Saved Only After Some Hard Fighting—There Is a Fair Insurance.

Fairlee, Dec. 6.—Fire which broke out in Stebbins' harness shop in the opera house building shortly before midnight destroyed that structure, also the Federated church and the public library building. The total loss will not exceed \$10,000, it is thought, but at one time the entire street was threatened, so that aid was summoned from Bradford and Oxford.

It was while members of the orange were departing from their meeting place in the church hall that flames were discovered breaking out of the Stebbins shop. They rushed to rescue the harness maker, an elderly man, getting him out in a dazed condition, and then gave the alarm for fire. The only equipment available were hand extinguishers, and they were powerless to check the flames, which soon spread from the opera house, a two-story wood structure, to the church, also of two stories and of wood.

The public library was located in the path of the flames, so efforts were directed toward removing the books and other contents of the library. These efforts were successful, all the books and most of the furniture being saved. The fire also communicated to the Abbott drug store and threatened to burn the Fairlee inn, while a tenement house of R. E. Merrill was saved only by spreading wet blankets over it. The fire practically burned itself out at two o'clock this morning.

There was an insurance of \$2,500 on the church building; \$800 on the opera house building and \$1,500 on the contents of the opera house. The church was occupied jointly by the old Congregational and Methodist societies.

CONTESTING LEGALITY.

Of Order of Vermont Public Service Commission.

The case of In re Sabre et al vs Rutland railroad, which was started in Vermont supreme court at Montpelier yesterday, was continued to-day when Attorney G. L. Hunt and Attorney General Sargent argued for the state. The petitioners in the case wanted a flagman and certain crossing changes and regulations in Albion and brought the matter to the public service commission which issued an order.

In their appeal from the decision the railroad raise the question of the legality of the commission and alleged the acts under which they were appointed are unconstitutional and therefore they are without authority. It is claimed they have both administrative and executive duties which is forbidden by the constitution.

The railroad are represented by E. W. Lawrence and the commonwealth by former Attorney-General J. G. Sargent and George L. Hunt.

The case was advanced and a special sitting called at the request of the attorney-general in order that the law could be remedied before the Legislature adjourned, if necessary.

The Cold Feet Question.

Question: What is this we hear about our police on the morning of Nov. 28 in a lunch room in the center of our city?

Answer: Now Mr. C. W. M., with all the gossip that is going, if you cannot hear something that will satisfy you, you must be a very hard person to please.

Question: Has there been any charges made to the police committee and action taken? If not, why not?

Answer: The ordinances of our city specify that if complaints against any member of the police department must be made in writing and signed by the person or persons making the same, and be filed with the police committee.

Now, Mr. C. W. M., you of all men ought to know if this has been done, as you are the only man that has seen fit to call my attention to what could be heard about our police on the morning of the 23rd, and you certainly cannot have forgotten that when I showed you the ordinance stating that it should be made in writing and signed and delivered to the police committee, you absolutely refused to put the complaint in writing and deliver it to me or the committee either. Cold feet!

Regardless of refusal, I did take such steps as I thought best to bring your verbal charges to the attention of the committee and I do know that said committee had, before your questions were asked, at least one meeting for investigation.